DESTRUCTION OF A LARGE GASHOLDER.—At the Edinburgh Gas Company's Works, on Thursday week, a new telescopic gasholder tilted over by the breaking of a guide rod, and by the friction, or otherwise, exploded, or at least set fire to, the gas, of which it contained nearly 300,000 cubic feet, being the largest gasholder in Scotland—40 feet in depth and 100 feet in diameter. Both gas and gasholder were destroyed, and the loss is estimated at about 2,000*l*. The adjoining houses, windows, &c., were considerably injured.

STEAM-BOILER EXPLOSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.—A report has just been presented to Congress, upon the subject of explosions in American steam-boilers. The report includes the number of accidents of this character from 1816 to 1848, and shows a total of 233 explosions, calculated from the average of the given cases.—Pecuniary loss—233 cases, at 13,302 dollars each, 3,099,366 dollars.—Loss of life—11 each, 2,563.—Wounded—9 each, 2,097=total killed and wounded, 4,660.

CURIOUS INVENTION.—Mr. Coupland, of Skellingthorpe, near Lincoln, has just produced a very curious invention, for the purpose of preventing the strong glare of the sun's light being cast upon windows which front the south.

MEDIÆVAL REMAINS.—The original floor of the ancient refectory at Durham has been discovered. About a foot and a half below the joists was an uniform surface of rubbish, on removing a portion of which, to the depth of about 3 feet, the workmen struck upon the floor of the ancient refectory. It is composed of plain red encaustic tiles, about 10 inches square, and of much rougher composition than is now deemed requisite.—*Sunderland Herald.*

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—The following extract from the *Northampton Mercury*, of more than a hundred years since, will interest some of our readers:—"London, February 23, 1722-3.—The rebuilding of Solomon's porch and the rest of the north front of Westminster Abbey is now finish'd, according to the model of the old building of the Gothick order; and the workmanship, in the opinion of competent judges, is reckon'd very beautiful and curious, in which the moderns have not only equal'd, but even exceeded the ancients in their own manner of architecture. The great window of 32 foot square in the front is likewise glazed with glass curiously painted after the Antique fashion, by Mr. Price, who is reckon'd the only artist in England capable of doing it; so that that ornamental art is not so entirely lost as some have alledg'd."

"TOM STEELE" AN ENGINEER.—Tom Steele, the devoted follower of O'Connell, whose melancholy end a short time since our readers will remember, was an associate of the Institute of Civil Engineers. In a memoir of him which was given at the general meeting of the Institution, mentioned last week, it was said that his attention being directed to the bad state of the navigation of the river Shannon, he determined to make a personal survey of the bed of the river, which he did in the most complete manner, employing sometimes very original means; such, for instance, as stepping along the line of a reef or shoal, supporting himself with one hand upon the stern of a boat, whilst he measured and recorded all the inequalities of the surface, and ascertained the nature of the rock or ground. An account of this survey was published by him; and no greater proof of its utility can be given than the fact of the greater portion of his suggestions having been followed in the works that have been since executed. His attention being thus directed to the diving bell, he devised several alterations in its construction and application; particularly a method of lighting the divers during their submarine labours. All these, with many similar subjects, were published in the current periodicals of the day, and some of them were communicated to the Institution. At a later period, a favourite theme upon which he repeatedly addressed the Institution was the purchase of the birth-place of Sir Isaac Newton, and its preservation by the scientific world, in the same manner that Shakspeare's house has since been obtained by the exertions of literary and dramatic men.

TENDERS

For new city prison at Holloway: Mr. Bunning, architect:—

Holland	£109,700
Costar	104,979
Baker and Son	104,937
Hicks	103,456
Curtis	102,764
Harrison	102,139
Kelk	100,622
Burton	99,800
Lee	98,500
Willson	98,387
Haward and Nixon	97,800
Piper	97,450
Jackson	97,402
Grimadell	96,865
Locke and Nesham	96,363
Glenn	95,480
Jay	93,870
Trego (accepted)	92,200

For new county prison, Wandsworth: Mr. J. Hill, architect:—

Baker and Son	£114,500
Costar	112,003
Munday	109,900
Jackson	109,908
Lawrence and Son	108,188
Grimadell	108,147
Haward and Nixon	107,500
Hicks	107,200
Branston and Gwyther	106,950
Lee and Son	106,875
Piper	106,200
Curtis	105,724
Higgs and Son	103,491
Locke and Nesham (accepted)	102,870

Both tenders opened in the presence of the builders. Quantities supplied for both.

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES

Held during the ensuing week.

MONDAY, FEB. 5.—Institute of Architects, 8 P.M.
TUESDAY, 6.—Institution of Civil Engineers, 8 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, 7.—Society of Arts, 8 P.M.
THURSDAY, 8.—Royal Society, 8½ P.M.; Society of Antiquaries, 8 P.M.
FRIDAY, 9.—Archæological Association 8½ P.M.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Received.—"C. N.," "Antiquity," "J. H.," "Fair Play," "Tartan" (yes), "A. B.," "H. F.," "An Old Mason," "An Old Subscriber," "T. R. L.," "J. G.," "C. F." (next week), "W. F.," "Trader" (shall appear), "G. W." (next week), "Looker-on," "L. M. T.," "R. G.," "J. J.," "W. H. S.," "H. M'C." (yes), "E. T. B.," "J. G." (a filter so formed above ground would doubtless answer. We are promised a letter from Norwich), "Young Plasterer" (we do not understand his question), "An Architect," "F. V. C." (copy shall be sent), "A Subscriber," "H. W. B." (we cannot advise our correspondent to take the step he speaks of: architectural modellers find little employment), "*Ami et Amateur*" (thanks for the suggestion and friendly tone), "J. G." (Malton), "Mr. W.," "E. S." (thanks—next week), "An Architect" (make out a bill for the business actually estimating time, &c., employed), "The Gold Seeker's Manual," by David Ansted, M.A. (Van Voorst, Lond. 1849); "Con. Cregan," No. II.; "The Family Friend," I. and II.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ENCAUSTIC, VENETIAN, BATH, and other PATENT TILES, and MOSAIC PAVEMENTS, may be obtained in great variety at MINTON and Co.'s Warehouse, 3, Albion-place, Surrey side of Blackfriars-bridge; and at their Manufactory, Stoke-upon-Trent, Staffordshire.—N.B. Slabs and Tiles for Fireplaces, plain and ornamental; Inlaid Furniture, &c.

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Bright ditto, with Black and Bright Bars, 2s. per in. and upwards.
Self-acting Kitchen Ranges, with Oven and Back Boiler:—
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Elliptic Stoves, with double backs, 3d. per in.
All articles made on the premises and warranted, and delivered free of expense within five miles of London. Bell-hanging in superior style, hung in secret, as per pull.

TO ARCHITECTS, BUILDERS, &c.
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Strong Self-acting Kitchen Ranges, with Back Boiler and Oven and Wrought Bars:—

3 ft.	3 ft. 3 in.	3 ft. 6 in.	3 ft. 9 in.	4 ft.
£3	£3 10s.	£3 15s.	£4	£4 10s.

Henly's Patent Improved, with back Boiler and Wrought Iron Oven:—3 ft. 3 ft. 3 in. 3 ft. 6 in. 3 ft. 9 in. 4 ft.
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Do. Elliptic do. at 4½d. and 6d. do.
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Elliptic-stoves, with double backs, 3d. an inch.
Washing-coppers, 1s. 9d. per lb.
Sash pullies from 9d. to 2s. per gross. Sash weights, 6s. per cwt.
Cast butts, per dozen pair
3 inch, 10d. 3½ inch, 1s. 3d. 4 inch, 1s. 6d.
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	2	3½	5	8 Inches.
Cast Butts	3s. 3d.	7s. 6d.	11s.	per 6 dozens.
Cut	6d.	8d.	10d.	1s. per pair.
Clasp	10d.	7d.	1s. 3d.	1s. 6d. per 1,000

	No.	3	4	5
Patent Line	4s. 6d.	7s. 6d.	8s. 10d.	12s. per gross.

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Rain Pipe	1s. 1d.	1s. 3d.	1s. 9d. per yard.

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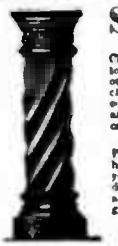

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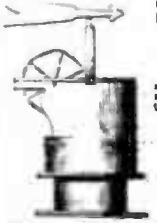

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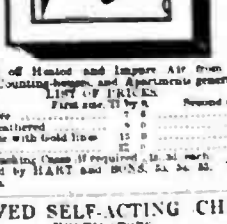

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